CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for transmitting a programmable message to a receiving device upon receipt of an event, comprising:

5   a.   an Internet data communications network interface;

       b.   at least one sending device, operatively connected to the data communications network interface, the sending device capable of transmitting the event upon a predetermined occurrence;

       c.   at least one receiving device, operatively connected to the data communications network interface, the receiving device capable of receiving and processing data;

       d.   a persistent data store;

       e.   a predetermined set of selectively retrievable messages resident in the persistent data store;

       f.   a monitor operatively in communication with the sending device and operatively in communication with a provider of data, the monitor further being able to access the set of selectively retrievable messages resident in the persistent data store; and

       g.   monitoring software, at least a portion of which is resident and executable within the monitor, the monitoring software capable of detecting the event in a packet received from the sending device, selecting at least one of the selectively retrievable messages based on the event, modifying data in the packet, and transmitting the modified packet to a predetermined receiving device.

16

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the data communications network interface is selected from the group of data communications network interfaces consisting of wired networks, wireless networks, and mixed wired and wireless networks.

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3. The system of claim 1 wherein the data communications network interface further comprises a local area network.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein the events comprise alerts generated by devices operatively connected to the local area network.

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5. The system of claim 3 wherein the monitor is operatively connected to both the Internet and the local area network as a gateway intermediate the Internet and one or more devices operatively connected to the local area network.

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6. The system of claim 1 wherein the predetermined receiving device to receive the message from the monitoring software is selected from the group of receiving devices connected to the local area network and receiving devices operatively connected to the Internet.

20 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the selected retrievable message is capable of being processed into data formatted to be rendered into human perceptible experiences.

17

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the receiving device comprises intelligent home network appliances, radios, personal computers, and televisions, each of which is capable of rendering the processed data into human perceptible experiences.

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9. The system of claim 1 wherein the persistent data store is a selected from the set of persistent data stores consisting of magnetic media located local to the monitor, magnetic media distributed away from the monitor, optical media located local to the monitor, optical media distributed away from the monitor, solid state memories located local to the monitor, and solid state memories distributed away from the monitor.

10. The system of claim 1 further comprising an external source of messages, wherein the monitoring software may receive and process messages from the external source for use by the monitoring software when selecting at least one of the selectively retrievable messages based on the event.

11. A method of generating messages for transmission to a receiving device, responsive to packets received at a monitor, the monitor operatively connected to the Internet and to the receiving device, the method comprising:

20 a.   monitoring original packets received at the monitor;

b.   selecting at least one retrievable message from a set of retrievable messages responsive to a received event for packets comprising at least one event; and

c.   for each receiving device associated with the selected retrievable message,

    i.   replacing each original packet destined for the receiving device with a new packet comprising a predetermined portion of the selected retrievable message; and

    ii.   sending the new packet to the receiving device for the duration of the selected retrievable message.

12.   The method of claim 11, further comprising sending the retrievable messages selected based on the received event to at least one default receiving device if no receiving devices are associated with the retrievable messages selected based on the received event.

13.   The method of claim 11, wherein replacing each original packet with a new packet comprising a predetermined portion of the selected retrievable message further comprises mixing a predetermined portion of the selected retrievable message with a predetermined portion of an input streaming media data stream contained in the original packet into a new streaming media stream contained in the new packet.

14.   The method of claim 13, further comprising:

    a.   altering an audio portion of the input streaming media data stream to a predetermined level before mixing the predetermined portion of the selected retrievable message

19

with the predetermined portion of the input streaming media data stream into a new streaming media stream; and

b.   altering a video portion of the input streaming media data stream to a predetermined level before mixing the predetermined portion of the selected retrievable message with the predetermined portion of the input streaming media data stream into a new streaming media stream.

15.   The method of claim 11, wherein replacing each original packet with a new packet further comprises buffering a predetermined portion of the original packet for later retrieval before replacing each original packet with a new packet comprising a predetermined portion of the selected retrievable message.

16.   The method of claim 11 further comprising allowing an authorized end user to modify at least one property of the set of retrievable messages for the set of retrievable messages further comprising at least one property for each retrievable message.

17.   The method of claim 16 wherein the modifiable property of the set of retrievable messages comprises a destination address, audio content, visual content, and subsequent actions to be performed by at least one of the devices at the destination address.

18.   The method of claim 11 further comprising

a.   receiving messages from an authorized third party source of messages;

b.   associating the messages received from the third party with at least one event; and

c.   storing the messages received from the third party into the set of retrievable messages.

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19.   An electronic event-based messaging system, comprising:

a.   means for receiving a first packet from the Internet;

b.   means for analyzing the first packet to determine if it contains an event;

c.   means for retrieving at least one message associated with the event from a set of retrievable messages for first packets containing events;

d.   means for transforming data in the first packet into a set of data in a second packet containing at least a portion of the retrieved message; and

e.   means for substituting the second packet for the first packet for destination addresses required by the first packet that are also required by the second packet.

20.   A packet based messaging system stored via a data storage medium, comprising:

a.   a first plurality of binary values for receiving a first packet over the Internet;

b.   a second plurality of binary values for analyzing the first packet to determine if it contains an event;

c.   a third plurality of binary values for retrieving at least one message associated with the event from a set of retrievable messages for first packets containing events;

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21

    d.   a fourth plurality of binary values for transforming data in the first packet into a set

            of data in a second packet containing at least a portion of the retrieved message; and

    e.   a fourth plurality of binary values for substituting the second packet for the first

            packet for destination addresses required by the first packet that are also required by

            the second packet.

21.   A method of generating messages responsive to events, comprising:

    a.   defining a message having data capable of human perception;

    b.   defining at least one event to which the message will be responsive; and

    c.   providing the message to at least one monitor for storage by the monitor and later

            retrieval by monitoring software in response to the event.

22.   The method of claim 21, wherein transmitting the message is provided via the Internet.

23.   A computer program embodied within a computer-readable medium created using the method of claim 11.

24.   A computer program embodied within a computer-readable medium created using the method of claim 21.